

Film News: ‘Happy as Lazzaro’ Takes Top Prize at 54th Chicago International Film Festival

Submitted by [PatrickMcD](#) [1] on October 20, 2018 - 8:45am

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CHICAGO – The Chicago International Film Festival is competitive, and the 54th edition presented its awards on October 19th, 2018, at the AMC River East Theatre in Chicago. The winner of the Gold Hugo as Best Film was “Happy as Lazzaro” (Italy/Switzerland/Germany/France), directed by Alice Rohrwacher.



The 54th Chicago International Film Festival Awards Night was October 19th, 2018

Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

The awards event was hosted by entertainment reporter Bill Zwecker. Presenters included Artistic Director Mimi Plauché, programmers Anthony Kaufman and Sam Flancher, plus various jury members. Festival CEO Michael Kutza presented his “Founder’s Award.” The Festival’s highest honor is the Gold Hugo, named for the mythical God of Discovery.



International Feature Film Competition



'Happy as Lazzaro,' Directed by Alice Rohrwacher
Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

The Gold Hugo for Best Film: “Happy as Lazzaro,” (Italy/Switzerland/Germany/France) Directed by Alice Rohrwacher

The Silver Hugo – Special Jury Prize: “Joy” (Austria), directed by Sudابه Mortezaei

The Silver Hugo – Best Director: Jia Zhangke of “Ash Is Purest White”
(China/France)

The Silver Hugo – Best Actor: Jesper Christensen of “Before the Frost” (Denmark)

The Silver Hugo – Best Actress: Zhao Tao of “Ash Is Purest White”
(China/France)

The Silver Plaque – Best Cinematography: David Gallego of “Birds of Passage”
(Colombia/Mexico/Denmark/France)

The Silver Plaque – Best Screenplay: Stéphane Brizé and Olivier Gorce of “At War” (France)

The Silver Plaque – Best Art Direction: Angélica Perea of “Birds of Passage” (Colombia/Mexico/Denmark/France)



New Directors Competition



“The Third Wife,” Directed by Ash Mayfair

Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

The Gold Hugo: Director Ash Mayfair of “The Third Wife” (Vietnam)

The Silver Hugo: Director Joël Karekezi of “The Mercy of the Jungle” (Belgium/France/Rwanda)

The Roger Ebert Award for New Directors: Directors Andréa Bescond and Eric Métayer of “Little Tickles” (France)

★ Documentary Competition



“[Censored],” Directed by Sari Braithwaite

Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

The Gold Hugo: “ [Censored]” (Australia), directed by Sari Braithwaite

The Silver Hugo: “Ex-Shaman” (Brazil), directed by Luiz Bolognesi

The Silver Hugo: “The Raft” (Sweden), directed by Marcus Lindeen



Gold Q Award (LGBTQ Films)



“Retalbo,” Directed by Alvaro Delgado Aparicio

Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

The Gold Hugo: “ Retalbo” (Peru/Germany/Norway), directed by Alvaro Delgado Aparicio

The Silver Hugo: “Rafiki” (Kenya/South Africa/Germany/Netherlands/France/Norway/Lebanon), directed by Wanuri Kahiu

Special Mention: “Hard Paint” (Brazil), directed by Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon



Chicago Award



"Hashtag Perfect Life" (USA, Chicago) Directed by Michael Paulucci
Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

★ Short Film Competition



"Mamartuille," Directed by Alejandro Saevich
Photo credit: Chicago International Film Festival

The Gold Hugo – Narrative: "Mamartuille" (Mexico), directed by Alejandro Saevich

The Silver Hugo – Narrative: "Hair Wolf" (USA), directed by Mariama Diallo

Special Mention – Narrative: "Nyi ma lay" (Singapore), directed by Wei Liang Chiang

The Silver Hugo – Documentary: "Circle" (UK/Canada/India), directed by Jayisha Patel

Gold Plaque – Documentary: “Edgecombe” (USA), directed by Crystal Kayiza

Special Mention – Documentary: “Black 44” (USA), directed by Darius Clark Monroe

The Silver Hugo – Animated: “Bloeistraat 11” (The Netherlands), directed by Nienke Deutz

Gold Plaque – Animated: “Weekends” (USA), directed by Trevor Jimenez

Special Mention – Animated: “Opening Night” (USA), directed by Margaret Bialis



The Founder’s Award

The Founder’s Award: “Beautiful Boy” (USA), directed by Felix Van Groeningen – Presented by Michael Kutza

The 54th Chicago International Film Festival takes place through October 21st, 2018. THE BEST OF THE FEST, celebrating the award winners of the festival, will be on Sunday, October 21st. [Click here](#) [18] for films, film schedules, information and to purchase tickets.



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